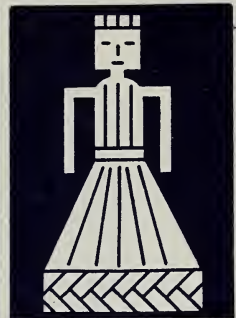


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TRAVELERS' TIPS

ON BRINGING FOOD,
PLANT, AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS
INTO THE UNITED STATES



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A Special Message For Travelers:

We hope you will enjoy your travels, and we want to make your return as convenient as possible. Therefore, you should know that it is illegal to bring many types of meats, fruits, vegetables, plants, animals, and plant and animal products into the United States without approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These restrictions are intended to protect the plant and animal life of this country.

Agricultural items can harbor foreign insects and diseases that could cause severe damage to U.S. crops, forests, gardens, and livestock.

We ask your cooperation in bringing into the United States only those agricultural items that are approved for entry.

Please take a few minutes to become familiar with these TRAVELERS' TIPS. They may save you time and money when you go through U.S. Customs.



WHY ENTRY OF AGRICULTURAL ITEMS IS RESTRICTED

Foods and plant and animal products from foreign countries are inspected at U.S. ports-of-entry by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Inspectors of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) determine if these agricultural items are free from pests and diseases or pose a pest-risk to this country. Small quantities of admissible agricultural items are usually released without expense or undue delay to the passenger.

Materials requiring extensive inspection, testing, or treatment often will be held until they can be certified free of pests. Some items may be refused entry.

Articles containing pests or diseases, and those determined to be pest-risks will be destroyed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. No reimbursement can be paid for items that must be destroyed.

Travelers often think that quarantine restrictions are aimed only at commercial importers. This is not true. Restrictions apply to anyone who brings agricultural products into the country. Personal luggage and "carry-on" baggage are major channels for the international spread of agricultural pests and diseases.

One plant, a piece of sausage, or a pet bird could be the means of accidentally introducing destructive pests into this Nation. "My-one-peach-will-not-hurt-anyone" theory is incorrect. Those "one peaches" tend to mount up. For example, 56 destructive Mediterranean fruit flies were discovered recently in figs, pears, and peaches in passengers' baggage on a single international flight. "Medflies" invaded the United States on four earlier occasions and had to be eradicated—at a cumulative cost of over \$20 million.

And, in 1971, an imported, diseased parakeet was responsible for an outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease in U.S. poultry. More than 11 million exposed chickens were destroyed to control the deadly bird virus. Commercial poultrymen received over \$26 million in indemnities.

Plant and animal pests and diseases cost Americans over \$12 billion annually. Many of our most destructive pests are foreigners that cause greater damage in the United States than in their native environment where natural enemies hold them in check.



U.S. CUSTOMS REQUIREMENTS

You must declare, on a U.S. Customs Declaration form, articles acquired abroad and in your possession at the time of your arrival in the

United States—including *all food, plant, and animal products*. The declaration forms are given to travelers on airplanes, ships, and trains.

The U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury, issues a publication, "Customs Hints for Returning U.S. Residents, **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO.**" A copy may be obtained from any Customs Office or from one of the agricultural quarantine offices listed, page 15.



SMUGGLING

Smuggling of prohibited food, plant, and animal products into the United States is a Federal crime. Persons found guilty of such smuggling are subject to a fine and/or imprisonment.

OBTAINING PERMISSION FOR ENTRY OF RESTRICTED ITEMS

A written permit is required before you can bring restricted animals, birds, and plant materials into the United States. Permits are issued to persons *with addresses in this country* and should be obtained in advance of your trip.

Animals and Birds

The U.S. Department of Agriculture restricts the entry of live farm animals; certain zoo animals; game animals and birds (including trophies); poultry and other birds and their hatching-eggs. Some cannot be brought in at all. Others must be held in USDA Animal Import Centers, or under owner's quarantine,

from 30 to 60 days after entry. For information, write *in advance* to: Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

The U.S. Department of the Interior restricts the importation of many species of fish, wild birds and animals (including certain zoo animals), and game birds and animals (including trophies). Inquiries should be addressed to: Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Also, the U.S. Public Health Service regulates entry of dogs, cats, and monkeys. Information can be obtained from: Foreign Quarantine Program, U.S. Public Health Service, Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Ga. 30333.

Plant Materials

Approval of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (in the form of a permit) is required before certain plant materials can be brought into the United States. These include fruits, vegetables, and plants or plant parts intended for growing. Plant materials that require permits are included in the General List, beginning on page 8.

To obtain a permit, write: U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, PPQ, Permit Section, 209 River Street, Hoboken, N.J. 07030.

All plant materials will be examined at customs inspection on your return to the United States. You may, however, mail restricted materials directly to one of the plant inspection stations listed below. Ask the Hoboken Permit Section for mailing labels at the time you apply for a permit.

In mailing: (1) *Be sure to write your home address on a sheet of paper put inside the package.* After clearance, your package will be forwarded to you without additional cost. (2) Mark the outside of the package to show its contents. (3) Send the package to: *U.S. De-*

partment of Agriculture, APHIS, PPQ using
one of the following addresses :

Federal Inspection Building, Rm. 202
100 Terrace Avenue
Nogales, Ariz. 85621

U.S. Border Station
P.O. Box 43-L
San Ysidro, Calif. 92073

101 Agriculture Building
Embarcadero at Mission Street
San Francisco, Calif. 94105

P.O. Box 3343, Terminal Island
San Pedro, Calif. 90731

Plant Inspection House
P.O. Box 2136
Miami, Fla. 33159

3179 Koapaka Street
P.O. Box 9067
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

P.O. Box 20037, Airport Mailing Facility
New Orleans, La. 70140

Plant Importation Office
209 River Street
Hoboken, N.J. 07030

John F. Kennedy International Airport
Plant Inspection Station, Cargo Building 80
Jamaica, N.Y. 11430

P.O. Box 3386
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00904

U.S. Fumigation Plant
P.O. Box 306
Brownsville, Tex. 78520

Cordova Border Station, Room 172-A
3600 East Paisano
El Paso, Tex. 79905

P.O. Box 277
Laredo, Tex. 78040

Federal Office Building, Room 9014
Seattle, Wash. 98104



IF YOU VISIT A FARM OVERSEAS

If you visit a farm in a foreign country, please inform the customs or agricultural inspector on your return to the United States. Unknowingly, you may have picked up a livestock disease on your shoes or clothes.

Highly contagious livestock diseases, such as African swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease, are prevalent in many foreign countries. These diseases do not affect humans but will debilitate or kill animals.

An agricultural inspector will tell you if you need to take special precautions to prevent possible infection of animals here.

WHAT CAN YOU BRING HOME?

Here is a list of common foods, plants, animals, and plant and animal products available in foreign countries. Many are admitted without restriction other than inspection; some are prohibited entry; and a few are generally prohibited but may, under certain conditions, be admitted.

General List

(Information on common products from Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, Hawaii, and Mexico is listed separately, pages 12 to 15.)

Acorns—*treatment required as a condition of entry.*

Animal hair, wool, or bristles—dyed, scoured, or thoroughly washed: *admitted.*

Animals—live cattle, swine, deer, horses, sheep, mules, burros, goats, dogs used around livestock, and zoo animals: *permit required.*¹

Bakery goods—including breads, cakes, cookies, and similar items: *admitted.*

Bamboo—dried poles: *admitted*; all other parts: *prohibited.*

Beads and curios—made of seeds: *admitted*; souvenirs made of Jequirity beans: *prohibited.*

Berries—fresh: *permit required.*²

Birds—*write for details.*¹

Bonsai trees—*see Plants.*

Candies—*admitted.*

Cheeses—fully cured: *admitted*; cottage cheese types: *generally prohibited.*

Chestnuts—*treatment required as a condition of entry.*

Christmas greens and foliage—fresh or dried: *admitted*; pine branches: *prohibited.*

Citrus peel—fresh or dried: *prohibited from most countries.*

Coconuts—without husks: *admitted*; with husks: *admitted except into Hawaii and permit required for Florida.*

Coffee beans—roasted: *admitted*; unroasted and dried: *admitted except into Hawaii and Puerto Rico.*

Cones of trees—*admitted.*

Corn—and related plants, such as broom-corn, sorghum, and Job's tears: *permit required.*²

Corn husks—*admitted.*

Cotton, medicinal—*admitted.*

- Cotton plants—all parts: *permit required.*²
- Dairy products—fresh: *prohibited from most countries.*
- Disease organisms and vectors—*write for details.*³
- Dried foods—such as rice, beans, coffee, tea, and shelled nuts: *admitted.*
- Eggs—bird and poultry eggs: *permit required.*¹
- Fish—canned: *admitted*; other fish.¹
- Flower bulbs—*admitted*; *Anemone* bulbs from Germany and *Gladiolus* bulbs from Africa: *prohibited.*
- Flowers—fresh cut or dried: *admitted*; fresh camellia and gardenia: *prohibited into Florida.*
- Foliage—fresh cut leaves and branches for decorative purposes: *admitted*; pine, rice, sugarcane, citrus, and wheat foliage: *prohibited.*
- Fruits—canned or processed: *admitted*; fresh fruit: *some kinds prohibited, others require permits.*²
- Game—animals or birds: *write for details.*¹
- Garlic—for use as food: *admitted in small quantities.*
- Hay, straw, or grass—*prohibited from most countries.*
- Herbarium materials—*admitted*; witchweed (*Striga* spp.) or materials regulated under Controlled Substances Act (illegal drugs): *prohibited.*
- Herbs⁴—for medicinal or food purposes: *admitted.*
- Hides and skins—fully tanned: *admitted.*
- Insects—dried and preserved: *admitted*; live insects in any stage of development: *write for details.*³
- Jams and jellies—canned or processed: *admitted.*

Leather products (including suede)—*admitted.*

Lichens—*admitted.*

Meat—fresh meat: *prohibited from most countries*; canned, cured, or fully dried meat: *prohibited except with special certification from country of origin.* (For more information, contact an agricultural quarantine office, see p. 15).

Mexican jumping beans—*admitted.*

Mushrooms—*admitted.*

Nuts—*admitted if outer husks removed.*

Packing materials—made from plant and animal materials: *generally prohibited*; peat moss, sphagnum moss, wood shavings, sawdust, paper, and excelsior; *admitted.*

Pets.¹

Plants—all plants in soil: *prohibited*; dried plants, flowers, and leaves for herbarium or decorative purposes: *most kinds admitted*; citrus leaves, rice straw or hulls, sugarcane, and witchweed: *prohibited*; live plants, shrubs, trees, and fresh cuttings intended for growing: *may be prohibited or may require special postentry-growing authorization.* (For details contact an agricultural office, see page 15.)

Rice straw and hulls—*prohibited except from Mexico.*

Rocks and minerals—*admitted.*

Sauces—canned or processed: *admitted.*

Scientific materials—serums, animal or plant disease organisms, vectors, and specimens of animals (or their parts): *write for details.*³

Seashells—*admitted.*

Seeds—of flowers, shrubs, trees, and other plants: *generally admitted*; seeds of alfalfa, avocado, bamboo, barberry, coconut (into Hawaii), corn, cotton, currant, gooseberry, lentils, mahonia, mango, rice, and wheat: *prohibited.*

Shamrocks—without roots: *admitted*.

Snail shells—including seashells: *admitted if empty and thoroughly cleaned*.

Snails—live snails, including escargots: *generally prohibited*.

Soil—quantities not to exceed one ounce: *admitted*; larger quantities: *write for details*.³

Spices—dried: *admitted*.

Straw articles—straw animals, hats, baskets, and other souvenirs: *admitted*; items stuffed with straw: *prohibited*.

Sugarcane—*prohibited*; sugarcane seed: *admitted*.

Terrarium materials—*see* Plants.

Trophies—animal or bird: *write for details*.¹

Truffles—*admitted*.

Vegetables—canned or processed: *admitted*; fresh vegetables: *prohibited or may require permit*.²

Wild animals and birds.¹

Woolen goods—clothing, blankets, etc.: *admitted*.

¹ See "Animals and Birds," p. 5.

² See "Plant Materials," p. 6.

³ For information, write: "Quarantines," U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

⁴ Refers to plants not regulated under the Dangerous Drug Act. For details on other herbs, write: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, Washington, D.C. 20537.

Products from Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands

(*Note: Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have certain agricultural pests that do not exist or are not prevalent on the U.S. Mainland. Therefore—to prevent the spread of these pests to the Mainland—it is necessary to keep out all agricultural items that could harbor them.*)

Banana leaves—*admitted*.

Birds—*write for details to: Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.*

Breadnut—*admitted.*

Cacao beans—*admitted.*

Cactus plants—*prohibited.*

Coconuts—*admitted.*

Coffeeberries—*prohibited.*

Coriander—*admitted.*

Flowers—fresh cut or dried: *admitted.*

Fruits—avocado, banana, breadfruit, papaya, pineapple, plantain, and quenepa: *admitted*; citrus fruit: *admitted if first port of arrival is Baltimore, Md., or any port north of the 39° latitude*; mangoes: *treatment required before transporting*; other fruit: *prohibited.*

Garlic—*admitted.*

Ginger roots—*admitted.*

Gourds—*admitted.*

Herbs—*admitted.*

Insects—dried and preserved: *admitted*; live insects: *prohibited.*

Medicinal plants—dried: *admitted.*

Plants—without soil: *admitted*; plant cuttings: *admitted*; plants in soil: *prohibited*; cactus plants: *prohibited.*

Seed cotton—*prohibited.*

Seeds—dried: *admitted.*

Snails—*prohibited.*

Soil—*prohibited.*

Sugarcane—*prohibited.*

Tamarind bean pods—*admitted.*

Vegetables—beans (fresh shelled), calabaza, chayote, eggplant, leek, onion, peas, pumpkin, most root crops, squash: *admitted*; sweetpotatoes and other vegetables: *prohibited.*

Products from Canada

Fruits—*generally admitted*; black currants: *prohibited.*

Meats and dressed poultry—*generally admitted.*

Vegetables—*generally admitted*; sweetpotatoes: *prohibited*; green corn and potatoes: *prohibited from certain provinces*.

Products from Hawaii

(*Note: Hawaii has certain agricultural pests that do not exist or are not prevalent on the U.S. Mainland. Therefore—to prevent the spread of these pests to the Mainland—it is necessary to keep out all agricultural items that could harbor them.*)

Cactus plants—*prohibited*.

Coconuts—*admitted*.

Coffeeberries—*prohibited*.

Cotton and cotton bolls—*prohibited*.

Flower leis, flowers, foliage—*fresh: most kinds admitted*; fresh mauna loa, gardenia, and jade vine: *prohibited*; dried flowers and foliage: *admitted*.

Fruits—pineapple: *admitted*; avocado, banana, litchi and papaya: *treatment required before transporting*; other fruits: *prohibited*.

Insects—dried and preserved: *admitted*; live insects: *prohibited*.

Plants—plants in soil: *prohibited*; plants without soil, and plant cuttings: *admitted if certified to be pest-free by Hawaii State Department of Agriculture*. (For arrangements, call 533-4720 in Honolulu, or 935-1049 in Hilo.) All cactus: *prohibited*.

Sand—*admitted*.

Seashells—*admitted*; snail shells: *prohibited*.

Seed leis and seed jewelry—*admitted*.

Seeds—dried: *generally admitted*.

Snails—*prohibited*.

Soil—*prohibited*.

Sugarcane—*prohibited*.

Wood roses—*admitted*.

Products from Mexico

Acorns—*admitted*.

Coconut—*admitted*.

Fruits—banana, blackberry, cactus fruit, ceriman, date, dewberry, grape, lemon,

lime (sour), litchi, melon, papaya, pineapple and strawberry: *admitted*; avocado—without the seed: *admitted, except into California, Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.*

Meats—pork, pork products, and poultry: *prohibited*; other meats: *admitted.*

Mexican jumping beans—*admitted.*

Nuts—*admitted.*

Tamarind bean pods—*admitted.*

Vegetables—*generally admitted*; potato, sweetpotato, and yam: *prohibited.*

WHAT ABOUT YOUR CAR?

Cars that were used abroad and still have foreign soil clinging to them must be cleaned at the owner's expense before release at the port of arrival. This restriction does not apply to passenger cars from Canada or Mexico.

COMMERCIAL SHIPMENTS

This booklet pertains only to food, plant, and animal products brought into the United States with *passenger baggage*. For information about commercial shipments of foreign agricultural materials, contact one of the agricultural quarantine offices listed, page 15, or write: "Quarantines," U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

TRAVELERS' TIPS is designed to help you clear your luggage through port-of-entry inspection with a minimum of inconvenience. If you want information not covered in this booklet, write "Quarantines," U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782; or contact the nearest agricultural quarantine office. Offices are listed in the telephone directory under "U.S. Department of Agriculture" in the following locations:

Alabama: *Mobile*
Alaska: *Anchorage*
Arizona:

Nogales
Phoenix
San Luis
Tucson

California:	<i>Ogdensburg</i>
<i>Calxico</i>	<i>Rouses Point</i>
<i>Los Angeles (airport)</i>	North Carolina:
<i>Oakland</i>	<i>Morehead City</i>
<i>San Diego</i>	<i>Wilmington</i>
<i>San Francisco</i>	Ohio:
<i>San Pedro</i>	<i>Cleveland</i>
<i>Vacaville</i>	<i>Toledo</i>
Connecticut:	Oregon:
<i>Windsor Locks</i>	<i>Astoria</i>
Delaware:	<i>Coos Bay</i>
<i>Dover</i>	<i>Portland</i>
<i>Wilmington</i>	Pennsylvania:
Florida:	<i>Philadelphia</i>
<i>Ft. Lauderdale</i>	Puerto Rico:
<i>Jacksonville</i>	<i>Fajardo</i>
<i>Key West</i>	<i>Ramey AFB</i>
<i>Miami</i>	<i>San Juan</i>
<i>Palm Beach</i>	Rhode Island: <i>Warwick</i>
<i>Pensacola</i>	South Carolina:
<i>Port Canaveral</i>	<i>Charleston</i>
<i>Port Everglades</i>	Tennessee: <i>Memphis</i>
<i>Riviera Beach</i>	Texas:
<i>Tampa</i>	<i>Brownsville</i>
Georgia:	<i>Corpus Christi</i>
<i>Atlanta:</i>	<i>Dallas</i>
<i>Savannah</i>	<i>Del Rio</i>
Hawaii:	<i>Eagle Pass</i>
<i>Hilo</i>	<i>El Paso</i>
<i>Honolulu</i>	<i>Galveston</i>
Illinois: <i>Chicago</i>	<i>Hidalgo</i>
Louisiana:	<i>Houston</i>
<i>Baton Rouge</i>	<i>Laredo</i>
<i>New Orleans</i>	<i>Port Arthur</i>
Maine:	<i>Presidio</i>
<i>Bangor</i>	<i>Progreso</i>
<i>Portland</i>	<i>Roma</i>
Maryland:	<i>San Antonio</i>
<i>Baltimore</i>	U.S. Virgin Islands:
<i>Hyattsville</i>	<i>St. Thomas Island—</i>
Massachusetts: <i>Boston</i>	<i>Charlotte Amalie</i>
Michigan: <i>Detroit</i>	<i>St. Croix Island—</i>
Minnesota:	<i>Christiansted</i>
<i>Duluth</i>	Virginia:
<i>St. Paul</i>	<i>Chantilly (Dulles</i>
Mississippi: <i>Gulfport</i>	<i>International Airport)</i>
New Jersey:	<i>Newport News</i>
<i>Hoboken</i>	<i>Norfolk</i>
<i>Moorestown</i>	Washington:
<i>Wrightstown</i>	<i>Blaine</i>
New York:	<i>Seattle</i>
<i>Buffalo</i>	<i>Tacoma</i>
<i>Jamaica</i>	Washington, D.C.
<i>New York</i>	Wisconsin: <i>Milwaukee</i>

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine Programs

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